

Amendments to the Claims (Unofficial)

PUBLICATIONS: Please refer to the amendment of 13 July 2007.

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for encoding input motion-image data by using inter-frame coding, and encoding input still-image data as pictures for a predetermined period of time by using the same encoding method as the encoding method of the motion-image data, said image processing apparatus comprising:

a memory unit configured to store the input still-image data;

a quantization unit configured to quantize image data;

a control unit configured to control a quantization method in said quantization unit so that a quantization step becomes smaller than a quantization step for motion-image data when still-image data stored in said memory unit is quantized; and

an encoding unit configured to encode still-image data quantized by said quantization unit, and generate encoded still-image data that includes intra-frame coded data and inter-frame coded data, which is an encoded coding error of the intra-frame coded data.

2.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said quantization unit performs quantization based on the product of a quantization matrix and a quantization characteristic value.

5. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said quantization unit quantized the still-image data stored in said memory unit using a

quantization characteristic value having a smaller step than the step of a quantization characteristic value used to quantize the motion-image data.

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said quantization unit quantizes the still-image data stored in said memory unit using a quantization matrix different from a quantization matrix used to quantize the motion-image data.

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a motion compensation prediction unit configured to perform motion compensation prediction for inter-frame recording,

wherein, when the still-image data stored in said memory unit is quantized, said control unit controls the motion compensation prediction in said motion compensation prediction unit so as to suppress or prohibit the occurrence of motion vectors.

8.-9. (Canceled)

10.-14. (Withdrawn)

15. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for encoding input motion-image data by using inter-frame coding, and encoding input still-image data as pictures for a predetermined period of time by using the same encoding method as the encoding method of the motion-image data, said image processing apparatus comprising:

a memory unit configured to store the input still-image data;

a quantization unit configured to quantize image data;

a control unit configured to control said quantization unit so that said quantization unit uses a variable quantization characteristic value when the motion-image data is quantized and

uses a constant quantization characteristic value when the still-image data stored in said memory unit is quantized; and

an encoding unit configured to encode still-image data quantized by said quantization unit, and generate encoded still-image data that includes intra-frame coded data and inter-frame coded data, which is an encoded coding error of the intra-frame coded data.

16. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising a memory that stores the constant quantization characteristic value used to quantize the still-image data.

17. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising a motion compensation unit configured to perform motion compensation prediction for inter-frame coding,

wherein said control unit controls the motion compensation prediction in said motion compensation unit so as to suppress or prohibit the occurrence of motion vectors when the still-image data stored in said memory unit is quantized.

18.-25. (Canceled)

26. (New) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a recording unit configured to record the still-image data encoded by said encoding unit on a recording medium.

27. (New) An image processing apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a recording unit configured to record the still-image data encoded by said encoding unit on a recording medium.

28. (New) An image processing apparatus for encoding input motion-image data by using inter-frame coding, and encoding input still-image data as the pictures for a predetermined period of time by using the same encoding method as the encoding method of the motion-image data, said image processing apparatus comprising:

a memory unit configured to store the input still-image data;

a quantization unit configured to quantize image data;

a control unit configured to control a quantization method in said quantization unit so that a quantization characteristic value is fixed for each picture when still-image data stored in said memory unit is quantized; and

an encoding unit configured to encode still-image data quantized by said quantization unit, and generate encoded still-image data that includes intra-frame coded data and inter-frame coded data, which is an encoded coding error of the intra-frame coded data.

29. (New) An image processing apparatus according to claim 28, further comprising a motion compensation prediction unit configured to perform motion compensation prediction for inter-frame coding,

wherein said control unit controls the motion compensation prediction in said motion compensation prediction unit so as to suppress or prohibit the occurrence of motion vectors when the still-image data stored in said memory unit is quantized.

30. (New) An image processing apparatus according to claim 28, further comprising a recording unit configured to record the still-image data encoded by said encoding unit on a recording medium.